



## **United States Mission to the OSCE**

# **Statement Regarding Interference with Independent Media in Kyrgyzstan**

As delivered by Chargé d' Affaires Kyle Scott  
to the Permanent Council, Vienna  
April 26, 2007

Mr. Chairman,

I would also like to thank the representative of Kyrgyzstan for the detailed report on the Kyrgyzstan government's perspective of recent events. I think it was very helpful for this council to hear greater details – a very useful report.

The United States would like to bring to this Council's attention recent actions by the Government of Kyrgyzstan that have interfered with the fundamental rights of its citizens to obtain information through an independent press. In particular, on April 20<sup>th</sup>, Kyrgyz government agents entered the Media Support Center Foundation printing presses established by Freedom House, stopped the print runs of opposition newspapers Agym and Kyrgyz Rukhu, and seized copies of those papers that had already been printed.

This act of censorship by a government that has so benefited from a free press and has made public declarations of its support for independent journalism and democracy is disappointing. We would be interested also in receiving greater information from the representative of Kyrgyzstan with regard to this incident. It would help us in understanding better how the Government of Kyrgyzstan sees its action as corresponding to its OSCE commitments to respect the rights of the media to report and publish information and opinions on recent events, including political disagreements, without interference.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.